

OD XII
Summary of Roman glass report

1. For text of the MONOGRAPH, chapter 6:

OD XII produced 221 glass fragments from vessels and 5 from panes (for their context and a summary see the excavation report in FWP 64, with a full catalogue in FWP 96, the whole prepared by Professor Jenny Price and colleagues). 68% of the assemblage was of pale green glass. The dominant form (75%) was of drinking vessels e.g. cups and beakers, with hardly any closed vessels such as jugs, flasks and bottles, and no vessels of great luxury.

A single bottle fragment and a fragment of cast window pane re-inforced the dating of the pre-settlement cultivation phase in the 1st-2nd centuries AD. Otherwise, the whole assemblage belonged to the fourth century AD, with an emphasis towards its second half; but, in line with similar indications from pottery and coin evidence, some fragments were probably from vessels of 5th century date e.g. those of late mould-blown type or with thick trailing e.g. nos. 29, 58 (which has no exact parallel in Roman Britain).

Four other fragments of window glass were of blown glass, the common 4th century type; but their small number suggests either that none of the buildings had windows or that they were lit by unglazed windows; or that any properly glazed windows or their panes were removed when the site was demolished towards the mid-fifth century *cf.* the fragment of lead window came from Building 3, FWP 64.32, 40].

2. for text of FWP 64

A full Report is available with a full Catalogue and bibliographical references, separately as FWP 96, the whole prepared by and under the aegis of Professor Jenny Price. The following paragraphs are a brief summary of the Report, some wordage being verbatim [with any comments by this author in square brackets].

OD XII produced 226 fragment of Roman glass, 221 from vessels and 5 from panes. 68% was of pale green glass, 26 % yellow green, 4% green, and 1% each of colourless and blue/green. Poor quality pale green and yellow green glass is ubiquitous in late Roman assemblages; yellow-green glass is probably more common in the later part of the fourth century AD. There are no vessels of great luxury. The

dominant form is of drinking vessels e.g. cups and beakers; closed vessels such as jugs, flasks and bottles are particularly marked in this assemblage by their scarcity. The single bottle fragment (Catalogue no. 63) is significantly of a type (Isings Form 50) common in mid-1st-2nd century contexts [which, like the early pottery and coins on the site, would fit it into the pre-settlement phase of the site's use when it was an arable field, thereby incidentally re-inforcing the dating for that period of cultivation].

Otherwise, the whole assemblage belongs to the fourth century AD, with an emphasis towards its second half and, in line with the indications from pottery and coin evidence, suggestions that some vessels are actually of 5th century date. The assemblage constitutes a notable addition to current knowledge of the range of vessels in use during the last decades of Roman Britain [and, by implication and analogy, in the early decades of the 5th century too]. Interesting features of the assemblage include the homogeneity in colour of the majority of fragments, the abundance of drinking vessels especially conical beakers, the virtual absence of closed vessel forms and the presence of more unusual forms such as the late mould-blown vessels.

Over 75% of the identifiable fragments come from cups and beakers, including very thick rim fragments from beakers or small bowls (Catalogue nos. 19-21) which can be attributed to the second half of the 4th century with parallels at Uley, Burgh Castle and Caister-on-Sea. Cup or beaker fragments with thick, applied vertical trail (no. 29) and the trailed base-ring (no. 58) suggest that the site may have continued in use into the 5th century. Their analogues in terms of trailing lie regionally at sites such as Uley and Frocester Court in Gloucester, in the Rhineland in the later 4th century, and in Saxon contexts in the 5th and 6th centuries. No. 58, a small concave base with the trailed base-ring wound three times around the base edge, has no exact parallel in Roman Britain. Broadly similar bases in the Mediterranean region e.g. in Rome, come from contexts in the first half of the fifth century [again indicating that occupation of OD XII continued after the conventional end of Roman Britain].

Sixteen fragments with mould-blown decoration (Catalogue nos. 1-9) represented a minimum of four vessels, two convex cups and two straight-sided beakers. This is an important addition to knowledge concerning the occurrence and distribution of these unusual forms, especially on a rural and apparently small settlement which contrasts so markedly with Roman Winchester where at least sixteen late mould-blown vessels have been found.

Only five fragments of window glass are in the assemblage. One, of cast glass, is of a glass type usually dated to the 1st-3rd centuries [which would fit in chronologically with the bottle fragment, *above*]. The other four fragments are of blown glass, the common 4th century type. Their small number suggests that the windows of the buildings (2 and

4A?) were not glazed [or that there were no window apertures or that properly glazed windows or their panes were removed when the site was demolished towards the mid-fifth century *cf.* the fragment of lead window came from Building 3 [!], FWP 64.32, 40].

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